

FIRE DEPARTMENT
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

FIRE-FUELS CREW MEMBER – Extra Help

DEFINITION

This is an entry level position within the Department's Wildfire Resilience program. Under direct supervision by a Fire Captain, the Fire-Fuels Crew Member performs physical tasks related to hazardous wildland fuels reduction on projects located in the Fire District and identified in Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Fire-Fuels Crew Members will also deploy as a Firefighter hand crew to local emergencies within Santa Clara County where incumbents will perform fire suppression duties.

This classification is a Fair Labor Standards Act non-exempt, temporary/seasonal/at-will and unrepresented classification. This classification is designated as a California Public Retirement System safety classification.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Fire-Fuels Crew Member is an entry level position and is distinguished from the Firefighter series in that the latter has a full range of firefighting responsibilities. Fire-Fuels Crew Members work as a team on a daily basis on fuels reduction projects and respond to primarily wildland related fires within the County.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Depending upon assignment, duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cut and remove brush, small trees and other hazardous vegetation using chainsaws, weed eaters, trimmers, pole saws, rakes, McLeods, Pulaskis, shovels, and mowers to create fuel breaks.
- Operate and work around woodchippers.
- Assist with constructing fire lines around vegetation fires, mop up hot spots and support hose lays to assist with wildland fire suppression.
- Respond to fires and perform fire suppression duties.
- Utilize back pumps, firefighting hand tools and chainsaws.
- Assist as a holding crew on vegetation management burns.
- Assist with fire suppression repair by laying out erosion control fiber rolls, re-seeding of burn scars and implementation of water bars on control lines.
- Drive Department-owned utility vehicles to tow the Department's chipper and portable toilet to project sites.
- Attend Department trainings and meetings.
- Read and understand fire weather.
- Use GIS devices and understand map reading.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (continued)

- Inspect, clean and maintain Department-owned chainsaws, firefighting hand tools and vehicles.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: High school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate; must be at least 18 years of age. CPR and Basic First Aid certifications are required at time of hire.

Within six (6) months of employment, incumbents must successfully complete/attain the following certificates/classes/test:

- Work Capacity Pack Test
- S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- ICS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System
- RT-130 Fireline Safety
- First Aid for the First Responder

The above classes/training must be completed in order for the incumbent to be qualified to deploy as part of a Firefighter hand crew where fire suppression duties are performed.

Knowledge Of:

- Principles and practices of wildland fire suppression/prevention and fuels reduction.
- Principles and practices of fire line safety.
- Techniques on safe and proper use of and maintenance of power and hand tools.
- CPR, basic first aid, and advanced bleeding control procedures for evaluation and treatment during emergencies.

Ability To:

- Use various tools and equipment for purpose of wildland fuels reduction.
- Perform heavy physical work and hike for extended periods of time.
- Use GIS tools and read maps.
- Read and understand fire weather.
- Safely and effectively operate various power tools and hand tools.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Analyze problems quickly and take appropriate action under pressure.

Ability To: (continued)

- Use sound judgment; communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain positive and cooperative working relationships with teammates and the public.
- Be flexible with change.
- Work long hours and for extended periods of time.
- Meet and maintain physical standards.

Working Conditions/Physical Demands:

Fire-Fuels Crew Members work long hours and for extended periods of time. Incumbents will work unusual and long hours under adverse and/or hazardous conditions including work in poison oak and on steep slopes. Exposure to extreme heat and cold temperatures, exposure to marked changes in temperature and humidity, exposure to dust, fumes, smoke, gases, odors and other irritating particles, exposure to excessive noise, solvents and grease, exposure to flames or burning items. Work may include weekends and holidays and members are required to wear a Department-issued uniform and Personal Protective Equipment. Work may require physical exertion, including standing, stooping, reaching, crawling, climbing, lifting, pushing, and or carrying. Must be able to lift/carry/push/pull at least 45 pounds.

Required Licenses or Certificates: Possession of a valid California Class C driver's license with a satisfactory driving record. Incumbents shall maintain all certifications and licenses referenced under the Employment Standards section above.

Pre-Employment Requirements: Candidates must pass a background check, Live Scan fingerprint and medical examination.